



# CommuniQUÉ

AUGUST 1999



THE *New Face of*  
INS COMMUNITY  
*Relations*

# HEADQUARTERS *News*

## ***Service Details Procedures as FY99 H-1B Cap is Reached***

Despite a significant increase in the number of H-1B employment visas available this fiscal year, INS announced on June 11 that it was no longer accepting H-1B applications, as the congressionally mandated numerical cap would soon be reached.

As of May 31, 1999, INS had already approved 108,386 H-1B visa applications, and it was anticipated that the 115,000 cap for FY99 would be reached by the middle of June.

Accordingly, the Service announced a series of procedures by which those individuals who had already filed by missed the cutoff date—or who had not yet filed—should proceed.

The procedures, which will remain in effect until the end of the fiscal year (when the count begins again) were published in the *Federal Register* on June 15. Under the procedures, petitions for first-time employment received on or after June 15 will be returned, along with the accompanying fees, to petitioners. They may then resubmit their applications (at any time), requesting employment beginning on or after October 1, 1999—the beginning of the new fiscal year. Petitions received before June 15 for first-time employment will be adjudicated and, if approved, will be granted with a start date of October 1.

The Service noted that petitioners may wish to withdraw their petitions and forfeit the fees, with requests faxed to the Immigration Services Division at Headquarters. It was also pointed out that H-1B petitions for first-time employment

beginning on or after October 1 will be counted toward the FY2000 cap of 115,000.

Exceptions apply primarily to petitions for current H-1B workers. In these cases, INS will continue to process petitions, as the visa cap does not affect them. Such applications include requests to extend the stay of a current H-1B worker, to amend the terms of employment for a current H-1B workers, to allow a current H-1B worker to change employers, and to allow a current H-1B worker to work concurrently in a second H-1B position.

**H-1B Background.** The H-1B visa category was established by the Immigration Act of 1990 and was designed to accommodate temporary visas for nonimmigrant workers, including specialty occupations requiring a bachelor's degree or higher and fashion models of "distinguished merit and ability." Common H-1B occupations include architects, computer programmers, engineers, accountants, doctors, and college professors. The visa is initially issued for three years, with the possibility to extend it for another three years.

In 1998, the number of H-1B visas available per fiscal year was raised from 65,000 to 115,000 for FY99 and FY2000, and from 65,000 to 107,500 for FY2001. However, during these years, a new H-1B worker fee of \$500 was required from employers seeking to use foreign labor. The fee was implemented to fund training and education programs for U.S. workers.

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## Final KPMG Report Shows INS Continues to Strengthen Natz. Process

*Only Four Errors Found In Survey of 4,800 Critical Control Steps*

The final report of the consulting firm KPMG Peat Marwick, LLP on the re-engineering of the naturalization process has been released, and it's good news for the Service.

As detailed in a progress report distributed from Headquarters on June 25, KPMG found that "INS continues to make improvements in the internal controls of the naturalization process and has reduced the risk of incorrectly naturalizing an applicant. Further, there was consistent evidence across the INS of control and documentation of criminal history information."

Specifically, of the 4,800 critical-control processing steps checked in developing the report, INS made only four errors, with each occurring at a different citizenship-processing site. This came as especially good news as it occurred at a time when naturalization application receipts increased by 91 percent compared to the same time last year.

"What is most encouraging," according to the HQ progress report, "is that the agency has ensured the integrity of the nation's citizenship program while concurrently increasing the number of applications completed."

As the next step in the improvement process, KPMG began a separate review of the naturalization program in the El Paso District on June 22 (as they had not recently revisited the site). In addition, INS hired 42 permanent "quality assurance analysts" to provide continuous review in the Field. Finally, an external contractor was hired to conduct quality assurance reviews at the larger districts nationwide, and quality assurance performance standards have been established for all managers involved in overseeing naturalization processing.

According to the progress update, "While INS is pleased that this final report has validated the integrity of its quality control procedures, it is mindful of the large number of pending applications and is concurrently focusing on timely application processing and better customer service."

The INS *Communiqué* is published by the Headquarters Office of Public Affairs to inform employees of the Immigration and Naturalization Service about official and unofficial activities. Readers are invited to submit articles, photographs, and letters to the editor. Write to INS Public Affairs, Washington, DC 20536; or phone (202) 514-2648. This newsletter and other useful information also are available on the Internet through the INS web site at <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov>.

Doris Meissner  
Commissioner

Maria T. Cardona  
Director, Office of Public Affairs

Mitch Katz  
Editor

Linda Paine  
Art Direction

Jonathan Carroll  
Graphic Design

**Cover:** INS community relations officers (CROs) stand together during the first-ever CRO training course, held in Washington, DC, from May 25-27 (see story on page 14).

### HEADQUARTERS NEWS

H-1B Request Procedures .....	2
Final KPMG Naturalization Report Released .....	3

### INS NEWS OF NOTE

Central American TPS Extended .....	4
Ruling on Criminal Alien Detention .....	4
Mandatory Detention Interpretation .....	4
Return of 101 Chinese Nationals .....	4
New Border Patrol Recruiting Effort .....	5
Removal of Cuban Spy from U.S. ....	5
Krushchev's Son is New Citizen .....	6
Health Improvement Course Held .....	6

### NEWS FROM THE FIELD

New York Criminal Alien Removals .....	7
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Study .....	7
Cooperative GA Investigation .....	8
White House Fellows Tour Krome SPC .....	8

### VIEW FROM THE FIELD

A Day in the Life of a York, PA, Trial Attorney .....	9
The Presidential Classroom .....	10

### INS TRAINING UPDATE

Pass. Analysis Unit Training .....	11
Int. Law Enforcement Workshop .....	11

### BORDER PATROL 75TH ANNIVERSARY 12-13

Community Relations Officer Conference .....	14
SD Human Resources Development Program .....	14

### INS AWARDS NOTES

Omaha District Public Service Award .....	15
Forensic Document Laboratory LULAC Award .....	15

### IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Mabel Platt .....	15
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### PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

D. Diane Weaver .....	16
William G. Harrington .....	16
Hipolito Acosta .....	16
Bob Barnard .....	16

# INS NEWS *of Note*

## **TPS Application Deadline Extended for Hondurans, Nicaraguans**

On July 1 INS announced a 45-day extension for those Honduran and Nicaraguan nationals eligible to apply for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to seek that benefit.

According to a Headquarters news release, the Service extended the application period "given the difficulty that some prospective applicants have faced in obtaining necessary documentation from their home countries." The deadline was extended to August 20, 1999, and the Service also specifically noted that certain provisions are available to those applicants who were unable to obtain nationality documents by that time.

Nationals from both countries were granted TPS for 18 months on December 30, 1998 in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch. Although the application deadline was extended, the status period is still set to expire on July 5, 2000.

Under the TPS designation, qualified nationals will not be subject to removal from the United States and will be eligible to apply for work authorization in this country. Only those nationals living in the United States by the date of designation were eligible to apply.

## **Court Rules INS Cannot Indefinitely Detain Criminal Aliens**

A panel of five Federal judges in Seattle, WA, has ruled that INS cannot detain criminal aliens for an indefinite period of time, leading to the release of a Vietnamese man who had been in Service custody for 22 months.

On July 9, 33-year-old Son Thai Huynh was released from the detention facility at SeaTac. He has been arrested 27 times in the last 10 years and has failed to appear for 12 separate court appearances. A convicted burglar, he is believed to have ties to a Northwest-area gang. Considered a flight risk, he is also believed to be a threat to society.

Huynh was released pending an appeal of the judges' decision, however, Vietnamese officials have refused to discuss his case with the INS. Two other criminal aliens were also released as a result

of the decision, which could ultimately lead to the release of 120 criminal aliens.

It is likely that the U.S. Attorney's Office in Seattle will appeal the judges' ruling. In the meantime, Huynh and the other criminal aliens released will be required to report in to INS on a periodic basis.

## **Service Adopts New Legal Interpretation on Mandatory Detention**

The Service announced in mid-July that—in accordance with Federal court decisions—it has changed its legal interpretation of the mandatory detention requirements associated with the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA). Specifically, according to a news release developed at Headquarters, the change will allow INS to consider some aliens for release pending removal hearings if they completed their criminal sentences prior to the implementation of mandatory detention requirements in October 1998.

"The 1996 Act gave INS important new tools that have helped us reach record levels in the removal of criminal aliens," Commissioner Meissner said when the new interpretation was announced. "In one provision of the new law, at least 13 Federal district courts have ruled that INS has greater flexibility in implementing the law's mandatory detention requirements than we had thought. As a result, INS will conduct a case-by-case review and exercise discretion on those individuals who completed their criminal sentences prior to Oct. 9, 1998, do not pose a danger to the community, and demonstrate a strong likelihood to appear for their hearing."

## **U.S. Returns 101 Chinese Nationals Following Smuggling Surge**

Helping to relieve the pressure caused by the arrival of more than 1,000 Chinese nationals in Guam in April and May, INS announced the repatriation of 101 of the aliens on May 28. The first group to be returned boarded a charter flight arranged by the International Organization for Migration in Saipan at about 4 a.m., arriving in Xiamen, China, just before 9 a.m. Beijing time.

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**UNDER THE TPS DESIGNATION, QUALIFIED NATIONALS WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO REMOVAL FROM THE UNITED STATES AND WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR WORK AUTHORIZATION IN THIS COUNTRY.**

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Prior to their departure, they were held in an INS-operated camp on the island of Tinian, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

From April to May, there was a surge in the number of boats—mostly fishing vessels—that attempted to smuggle illegal nationals from the Chinese mainland to Guam. In all, more than 18 boats, carrying approximately 1,000 people, either reached the island or were intercepted at sea and taken to Tinian by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Stressing that Guam should not be viewed as an easy access point to America, INS Officer-in-Charge David Johnson said, “I think today’s flight sends a strong message to would-be illegal aliens and the criminal syndicates who bring them: If you come here illegally, you’ll be sent back. And if you traffic in human lives, you’ll be caught and prosecuted.”

On the same day of the repatriation flight, INS announced that six of the smugglers involved in bringing Chinese nationals to Guam had been arrested and now face prosecution. Each could get up to 10 years in prison for their part in four separate smuggling ventures.

## **Service Unveils New Border Patrol Recruiting Effort**

*Includes Hiring 200 Specially Trained Agents*

In a move designed to help broaden the view of the Border Patrol as a potential career choice, INS announced a new initiative on June 30 in Dallas, TX, that includes hiring and training 200 agents to focus specifically on regional recruiting efforts.

As part of the announcement, which was attended by Commissioner Meissner and corresponded with the completion of the first 100 agents’ training, INS also formally announced the creation of a new 1-800 number with information on questions frequently asked about Border Patrol agent positions and the application process. The second set of 100 agents was trained in San Diego in mid-July, with a focus on “giving them practical information on the competitive marketplace and helping them develop [both] short- and long-term recruiting strategies.”

“Our best recruiting tool is our own agents,” the Commissioner said in announcing the details of the new effort. “With today’s tight labor market and low unemployment, it has been a challenge to attract new recruits in the numbers we need. We believe these new recruiters will be able to reach a wealth of untapped potential in their communities.”

The new resources she stressed, will complement, not replace, INS’ national Border Patrol recruiting activities, which are coordinated at Headquarters by the Human Resources Management Division.

## **Miami District Removes Cuban Spy Following BIA Ruling**

An admitted Cuban spy has been found deportable under laws that allow the removal of any alien who, after entering the United States, has engaged in “any activity to violate any law of the United States relating to espionage.”

Jorge Luis-Rodriguez, a native and citizen of Cuba who is a

known agent of the Cuban Intelligence Service (CUIS), was ruled deportable in a recent decision by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). The case began in April 1996, when INS, working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), learned of a meeting between Luis and another CUIS agent in Miami. During questioning, Luis was found to possess “spy trade-craft” items, including instructions from his CUIS superiors and the names of several Cuban exiles identified as members of an anti-Castro organization. The names were written on water-soluble paper and concealed in a wallet with a secret compartment. During subsequent interviews, Luis admitted he was a CUIS agent.

In November 1996 the case was dismissed by an immigration judge with the BIA, who ruled that Luis was not “secretly gathering sensitive defense-related or classified information...with the intent of injuring the United States or benefiting a foreign nation.” Based on this standard, he maintained the INS had not proven its case.

The Service appealed, saying that Luis—as someone who had “knowledge of, training, or had received an assignment in the espionage tactics and activities of a foreign government”—was in the United States in violation of the Foreign Registration Act. That violation, INS contended, made him deportable under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), whether or not his activities targeted something other than “national security information.” The BIA sustained INS’ appeal, clearing the way for Luis’ removal.

# INS NEWS *of Note*

The precedent set in the decision, which is binding on immigration courts throughout the nation, significantly expands the United States' ability to remove aliens involved in espionage-related activities.

*Compiled by the Miami, FL, District's Office of Public Affairs.*

## **Son of Soviet Leader Sworn in as Naturalized U.S. Citizen**

Saying that his father would not necessarily be "spinning in his grave," Sergei Khrushchev, son of former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, became a U.S. citizen along with his wife during a naturalization ceremony in late June in New England.

The younger Khrushchev, a rocket and computer scientist

who once headed the Soviet Missile Design Bureau, came to the United States in 1991 to teach at Brown University in Providence, RI. After completing the two-year exchange program, he and his wife applied for permanent residency, stressing that he was not requesting asylum as the United States and Russia were no longer political enemies.

## **First Health Improvement and Physical Fitness Course Held in San Diego**

During the last week in May, INS' Health Improvement and Physical Fitness Program (HIP) presented a certification course in San Diego, CA. This was the first such course ever organized by

training exercises designed to improve the professionalism and the fitness for duty of the officer corps. The program has saved the Service hundreds of thousands of dollars in reduced sick leave, and has greatly reduced workers' compensation claims, mortality and morbidity, and long-term health care costs. In addition, with HIP training there is a "physical and mental hardening"—a greater resilience in terms of stress—of the individual officer. For example, there have been no heart attack deaths on duty in the group of officers actively enrolled in the HIP Program.

Before the course in San Diego—which was organized and instructed by the Director of the HIP Program Dr. Alfred Morris—all HIP coordinators were sent to other professional sites at organizations that conduct such training. This was both inefficient and costly to the Service. During the INS-HIP certification training, students learned how to screen participants for exercise and how to direct exercise prescription.

Other topics, such as diet and nutrition for health and fitness, were presented and stress management techniques were also demonstrated. The lead instructors for the course were Dr. Fred W. Kasch of San Diego, CA; Dr. Fred Smith of Tucson, AZ; and Chief Patrol Agent Simon Garza of the Marfa, TX, Border Patrol Sector.



Participants in the Border Patrol's Health Improvement and Physical Fitness Certification course stand outside the San Diego, CA, Sector Headquarters on the last day of the class.

the INS for the HIP coordinators that operate in the Field. Each coordinator works locally in his or her office as a collateral duty officer to conduct the HIP-INS program onsite.

The INS-HIP Program consists of voluntary health improvement and physical conditioning

# INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

## **Eight-month NY Investigation Leads to Removal of 35 Criminal Aliens**

*By Dawn DiAngelo*  
New York, NY, District  
Office of Public Affairs

On May 13, following an eight-month investigation conducted by INS' New York, NY, District in coordination with the police and county probation departments of Nassau County, the Service announced the arrest and pending removal of 35 wanted criminal aliens.

The Nassau County Sex Offender Project targeted criminal alien sex offenders

living either within the county or just across its borders. The investigation was conducted under the supervision of INS Supervisory Special Agent Dennis Davey and Immigration Agent Robert Mancene. Due to the hard work of all Federal and county agents involved, each of the aliens arrested faces removal from the United States based on prior convictions for rape, sodomy, sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct.

According to District Director Edward McElroy, the success of the investigation should send a "clear message to criminals aliens that their presence in the country will not be tolerated." During the last two fiscal years, he pointed out, the New York District has removed more than 4,000 criminal aliens, and remains "committed to [working with] other law enforcement agencies to make local communities better places in which to live."

## **Laredo BP Sector Conducts Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Study**

As part of a congressionally mandated study, INS' Laredo, TX, Border Patrol Sector has conducted a series of tests of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), remote-controlled helicopters that use onboard camcorders to monitor activity along the border.

Working with the U.S. Air Force's Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC), the Headquarters Office of Border Patrol signed an agreement in late January to conduct the UAV study. The Laredo Sector was selected to host the operations based on three years of prior experience with unmanned surveillance craft. In fact, the research that led to the current study was coordinated primarily by former Laredo Sector Chief Luis Barker and sector Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Lee Bargerhuff.

In the spring of this year, AFOTEC selected the Cox Ranch—about 25 miles north of Laredo—as the UAV test site. With an excellent landing strip and other accommodations, the ranch was a perfect fit for the study. It is also located within FAA air space and is currently being leased by Laredo North Station Field Operations Supervisor Jesus "Chuy" Garza,



who magnanimously permitted its use free of charge.

Agents participating in the testing included: ACPA Lee Bargerhuff, ACPA Manuel Flores, Daniel Perales, SBPA David Perales, BPA Larry Martinez, SPA Luis de Leon, and SPA Thomas Maxwell. In addition, Schiebel Technologies, the company that designed the Camcopter UAV, had three representatives at the test site.

The results of the study will be announced shortly, after all of the data collected has been analyzed.

Agents with the Service's Laredo, TX, Border Patrol Sector stand behind a remotely operated aircraft being tested for use in border surveillance activities. (photo courtesy Laredo, TX, Sector)



# INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

## Dalton, GA, Immigration Task Force Shares in Seized Proceeds

On April 16, INS officials from the Atlanta, GA, District presented a check for \$118,879 to Dalton Chief of Police James Chadwick and Mayor James Middleton in connection with their participation in a joint fraud investigation entitled

### Operation 'No Way.'

The joint investigation led to the discovery of an immigration fraud scheme that bilked unsuspecting illegal aliens of up to \$2,000 each for "help" in filing for permanent resident status. After the fee was paid, the organization would also file false asylum claims on behalf of the aliens without their consent and fraudulently obtain fake work authorization

documents. The aliens, for their part, would simply get their passports stamped with a counterfeit "processed for I-551" stamp supposedly indicating that they were awaiting permanent resident status.

The scheme was initially uncovered by a Dalton Police Department secretary assigned to the city's Immigration Task Force, who spotted the fraudulent I-551 stamps in passports belonging to illegal aliens.

Over the course of the investigation, INS investigators, working with Dalton police detectives, were able to identify the ringleader as Noel Hugh Rowe, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Guatemala. As part of the scam, he would travel from California to Atlanta posing as an attorney, soliciting illegal aliens (especially in Dalton) who wished to become legal permanent residents. In all, it is estimated that Rowe made more than \$2 million through the scam, and when a search warrant was executed at his headquarters, \$150,000 in cash was seized. He ulti-

mately pled guilty to charges of document fraud and was sentenced to 30 months in prison. He was also required to give up all cash proceeds made through the scheme, a portion of which went to the city of Dalton.

**An Essential Partnership.** INS' partnership with the Dalton Police Department was essential to the successful investigation of the case. According to Chief Chadwick, the funds received will be used to equip several of the city's police cruisers with computer equipment, "allowing them to be more efficient in the enforcement of laws in the state of Georgia."

Following the conclusion of the case, Chief Chadwick also said that this unique local/Federal partnership has brought about many unforeseen benefits, including a better understanding by his officers of the complexity in dealing with foreign nationals and criminal organizations that exploit the immigration process.



Mayor James Middleton, Police Chief James Chadwick, Atlanta Assistant District Director for Investigations Bart Szafnicki, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jan Jenkins stand together during the ceremony in which the asset forfeiture proceeds were formally transferred to the city of Dalton.

## White House Fellows Pay Visit to Miami's Krome SPC

In late February, 17 White House Fellows visited INS' Krome Service Processing Center (SPC) in the Miami,

FL, District. As part of their tour of the facility, Officer-in-Charge Edward A. Stubbs spoke on detention and deportation-related issues and Ruben Cortina, director of the Detention Management Branch at Headquarters answered a range of

questions about the Service's national Detention and Deportation operations. In addition, Dr. Ada Rivera of the U.S. Public Health Service spoke on health issues related to the facility, demonstrating INS' close working relationship with her organization.

Participants in the Fellows program work hand-in-hand with public-sector leaders to form an understanding of how the Federal government works. As part of their training, they attend a "wide variety of informational meeting with leading representatives from the worlds of business, the arts, science and technology, media, and politics. Fellows may also travel abroad to explore issues of global significance, and within the country to see U.S. policy in action," according to the President's Commission on White House Fellowships.



A group of interns listens as Krome Service Processing Director Ed Stubbs details the daily operations of the facility.



# VIEW FROM *the Field*

## A Day in the Life of a York Trial Attorney

By the York, PA, Litigation Unit

Remember the scene at the beginning “Hill Street Blues” where, after the morning roll call, the sergeant would remind the officers, “Let’s be careful out there,” signaling the beginning of another day? The Litigation Unit of the Philadelphia District’s York office starts its day in a similar vein. Every day, without fail, precisely at 8 a.m., the command: “Prepare for breakfast, prepare for breakfast” is piped over the loudspeaker system of the York County Prison—where the INS offices are located—letting the inmates know that breakfast will soon be served. That announcement also usually marks the beginning of another busy day for the York litigation unit.

The four attorneys in the York Litigation Unit—Daryl Bloom, Jeff Bubier, Maureen Gaffney and Ted Murphy—handle the courtroom caseload for all INS detainees in Pennsylvania, which number over 1,000 on any given day. Their offices are located in the new wing of the York County Prison, where over 600 INS detainees are housed.

In a typical week, the attorneys handle 75 to 100 appearances in immigration court, representing the Service in master calendar hearings, bond hearings, and individual merit hearings. Their caseload also includes handling a juvenile docket once a week for the approximately 30 juveniles held in the nearby Berks County Youth Center and an Institutional Removal Program (IRP) at Camp Hill, PA. The overwhelming majority of the adult detainees are criminal aliens.

The unit opened its offices in the York County Prison in December 1995. At that time, Bloom was the sole onsite INS attorney. There was no clerical support in York, and his office was literally a closet in the bowels of the prison. Help eventually arrived, as Bubier began his work in February 1996, Gaffney joined in June 1996, and Murphy started in May 1997. Celeste Knee, the all-purpose office administrator, was hired in November 1996 and Stacie Holpp, a college intern, began work in April 1997.

The litigation “office” was located in a converted exercise area of the prison, and all six employees, their office furniture, supplies, and files were

jammed into one 500-square-foot windowless room, conveniently located next to the medical unit, where the groaning sounds of sick inmates provided an “interesting” working environment. Court hearings were conducted in a renovated 18th century farmhouse a half-mile from the prison.

Working conditions have improved greatly since the opening of the prison’s immigration wing last December. The expansion contains the INS litigation, deportation and detention offices, two courtrooms and office space for the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR), and detention facilities for 500 additional detainees, making it one of the largest INS detention facilities on the East Coast.

**A Varied, Fast-paced Practice.** The large criminal population makes for a varied, fast-paced legal practice for the litigation unit. Unlike a non-detained docket where it may take many months for proceedings to be concluded at the immigration court level, the detained docket requires cases be completed expeditiously, usually within a matter of a few weeks.

Because of the overhaul of the immigration laws in the last few years—especially with regard to mandatory detention and relief (or the lack thereof) for criminal aliens—new legal issues arise daily. This has led to an explosion in appellate work for the York trial attorneys, in addition to their normal duties handling trial work. Accordingly, the four York attorneys currently have nearly 200 INS appeals pending with the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA).

The York attorneys have also filed more automatic stay forms in bond cases than all service attorneys nationwide combined. The attorneys have to deal with claims of potential derivative citizenship, which have increased exponentially, as a result of the lack of any relief from deportation for most criminal aliens. Bloom and Bubier are also



Bottom left to right: Celeste Knee, Legal Assistant; Maureen Gaffney, Assistant District Counsel; Stacie Hopp, Intern; Top left to right: Ted Murphy, Assistant District Counsel; Daryl Bloom, Assistant District Counsel; Jeff Bubier, Assistant District Counsel

*continued on page 10*

# VIEW FROM *the Field*

## ***Service Employee Guides Youth Leaders*** **IN PRESIDENTIAL CLASSROOM**

Nine-year INS veteran Cynthia Marable recently took part in the Presidential Classroom's Science, Technology, and Public Policy

with regard to research funding, environmental policy, defense technology, telecommunications, and other issues.

"The Presidential Classroom Program provides an opportunity for high school students to be exposed to our nation's leaders and formulate opinions that will help them become tomorrow's leaders," Marable said proudly after returning to INS.

A nonprofit, nonpartisan civic education organization in its 30th year, Presidential Classroom will offer five distinct programs beginning in the year 2000. They include the Presidential Classroom Scholars Programs; the Science, Technology, and Public Policy Program; the Future World Leaders Summit; the Business and Government Program; and the Media and Democracy Program.

For more information about the program, contact Presidential Classroom at 119 Oronoco Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2058. The phone number is 1-800-441-6533, and the Classroom's home page on the World-Wide Web can be found at [www.presidentialclassroom.org](http://www.presidentialclassroom.org).

Each of the volunteers also facilitated small-group discussions on current topics such as the impeachment process, human rights, and the role of the media in the political process. Other highlights of the week-long program included seminars by U.S. senators

and the heads of international science and technology corporations, as well as tours of the White House, National Security Agency, CIA Headquarters, the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD.

Program in Washington, DC. Selected from a competitive pool of hundreds of applicants, she joined 17 other volunteer instructors in helping high school juniors and seniors from across the nation better understand the relationships within the Federal government



Cindi Marable (far left) stands with students in her caucus of the Presidential Classroom Program in front of the White House after taking a guided tour of the building and meeting with Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA) and Rep. Carl Levin (D-MI). (photo courtesy Cindi Marable)

### **York Attorney, continued...**

responsible for handling any "special interest/terrorist-related" cases that arise within the district. Gaffney reviews parole responses for legal sufficiency. Finally, the York attorneys are responsible for all employer sanctions cases that arise out of the Pittsburgh and West Virginia investigations units.

**Providing the Details.** Because of the heavy caseload, District Counsel Kent Frederick in Philadelphia tries to provide details to York as often as possible. The York attorneys also often trade places with their colleagues in Philadelphia, so that both offices get exposure to criminal and noncriminal and detained and non-detained cases.

At the end of a typical day in York, Bloom is finishing yet another appellate brief. Bubier is discussing the claim of a potential citizen with the exams unit in Philadelphia. Gaffney is preparing three more notices of appeal that arose from a master calendar docket that morning. Murphy is reviewing a new sanctions case from Pittsburgh. And Knee and Holpp are pulling the cases for next week's docket.

At precisely 5:30, the prison loudspeaker system signals the end of another day: "Prepare for supper, prepare for supper." The work begins anew tomorrow.

# TRAINING *Update*

## **INS Holds Passenger Analysis Unit Training in Miami, FL**

INS/U.S. Customs Service Joint Passenger Analysis Units (PAUs) are among the latest tools developed to help identify high-risk travelers at major airports throughout the United States. Accordingly, from April 16-20 at Miami, FL, International Airport, INS held its first PAU training class, with 20 Immigration Inspectors from the Eastern Region (along with two Customs Inspectors from Miami) in attendance.

Service instructors for the class included Carey Davis and Francis Cassidy from the Atlanta, GA, and Miami, FL,

districts, respectively, along with Customs officers Edward Ulanowski and Darrell Smith from Chicago and Miami.

Evaluation forms completed by the participants following the training reflected the effectiveness of the course, specifically with respect to identifying high-risk travelers—especially those using either counterfeit documents or stolen airline tickets.

Said Diana Gosnell, port director at Baltimore-Washington International Airport, who sat in on the course “The PAU training was the best and most interesting I



Members for the first INS/Customs Joint Passenger Analysis Unit Training Course stand together during a break at the Miami International Airport.

have seen presented to officers in the Service's Inspections program. I learned a lot as well.”

## **Office of Inspections Hosts Four-country Law Enforcement Workshop**

INS' Headquarters Office of Inspections hosted a workshop for representatives from Chile, Mexico, Peru, and the Philippines at the Federal Law Enforcement Center (FLTC) in Glynco, GA, from May 18-20, including a visit to a “mock” port-of-entry where they were able to observe Immigration Inspector training first-hand.

The four countries are members of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and have partnered with the United States to receive training in fraudulent document identification and other inspections-related subjects. The primary goal of the workshop was to plan the curriculum for each country's individual training program that will be delivered by INS personnel this fall.



Held at the Federal Law Enforcement Center in Glynco, GA, course participants represented countries including Chile, Mexico, Peru, and the Philippines.





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75 YEARS

## Border Patrol Kicks Off 75th Anniversary Celebration

By Nicole A. Chulick  
Office of Public Affairs

The Border Patrol kicked off its 75th anniversary celebration on May 28 with a pennant raising ceremony in the morning, followed by a formal awards ceremony and celebration at the San Diego (CA) Convention Center.

Gala attendees raved about the "once-in-a-lifetime" event. "The Border Patrol's anniversary celebration was a truly remarkable celebration, and one that reflected the Border Patrol's 75 years of dedicated service to this country. The gala did justice to the honor, integrity and valor of the men and women who make up the



Border Patrol Chief Gus De La Viña welcomes the celebration attendees, as Attorney General Reno, Commissioner Meissner, and Chief Michael Nicely look on. (photo courtesy San Diego, CA, Border Patrol Sector)

proud ranks of the U.S. Border Patrol," said Commissioner Meissner.

The gala began with welcoming remarks from Chief Gus de la Viña, presentation of the colors, the National Anthem — sung by two agents — and the raising of the new Border Patrol flag in a touching ceremony by the most senior and the most junior Border Patrol agents.

After the benediction, Border Patrol bagpipers performed "Piping in the Beef," as dinner was served. After Chief De La Viña cut the ceremonial cake, attendees watched the Border Patrol video that, following the theme of the evening, highlighted the past, present and future of the Patrol. Chief de la Viña commented, "This gathering is a fitting tribute to the accomplishment of those Border

Patrol Agents that have gone before and those that will follow."

Dinner was followed by an awards ceremony. Many of the recipients received a standing ovation from the

audience as they accepted their awards and were congratulated by Attorney General Janet Reno, Commissioner Meissner and Chief De La Viña.

Throughout the evening, agents expressed their appreciation of the event. Associate Chief Tom Walters said, "The 75th observance and awards ceremony was, to me, like witnessing Haley's comet. It was a once-in-a-lifetime, never to be seen convergence of this organization's past, present and future."

Deputy Chief Nicely recognized the hard work of all the agents involved in organizing the event and especially San Diego Sector, "Everyone I talked to had nothing but positive things to say about the event. All those people throughout the INS that made this even possible,

especially San Diego Sector, deserve our thanks."

In an expression of the Patrol's appreciation for all their support, the Attorney General and the Commissioner were presented with awards. The Attorney General thanked the Patrol effusively and closed by reading a letter from the President; "On behalf of all Americans, I salute our nation's Border Patrol agents for your courage and commitment to excellence, and thank you for your dedicated service to our nation. Best wished for a memorable anniversary celebration and continued success in the years to come."

The 75th anniversary celebration paid tribute to the Patrol's rich past.



Prior to the evening's formal anniversary ceremony, the new Border Patrol flag was raised outside of the San Diego Sector headquarters. (photo courtesy San Diego, CA, Border Patrol Sector)



Prior to the traditional "piping in the beef," a bagpipe troupe member stands in the entry arch leading to the Border Patrol historical and vehicle displays. (photo courtesy San Diego, CA, Border Patrol Sector)



# R FIRST - 1999



## EARS ICE TO THE NATION

Historic displays, including old vehicles, photos, and memorabilia encircled the seating area at the Convention Center in San Diego. Displays also documented the current activities of the Patrol. Each sector had a display, with an agent to proudly explain the Sector's achievements. An impressive model helicopter showed the future of the Patrol and the growing reliance on state of the art technology.

Since its inception in 1924, the Border Patrol has been on the front line of some of the nation's most critical law enforcement challenges. The National Observance in San Diego marks the beginning of a year in which the Patrol will honor its officers past and present, and reflect on the history of the Patrol while moving into the future with advanced technology, new equipment and more agents than ever before.

Congress created the Border Patrol through legislation enacted on May 28, 1924. The initial force was selected from civil service registers for railway postal clerks and immigrant inspectors. This small band of officers was given the responsibility of combating illegal entry and the growing business of alien smuggling.

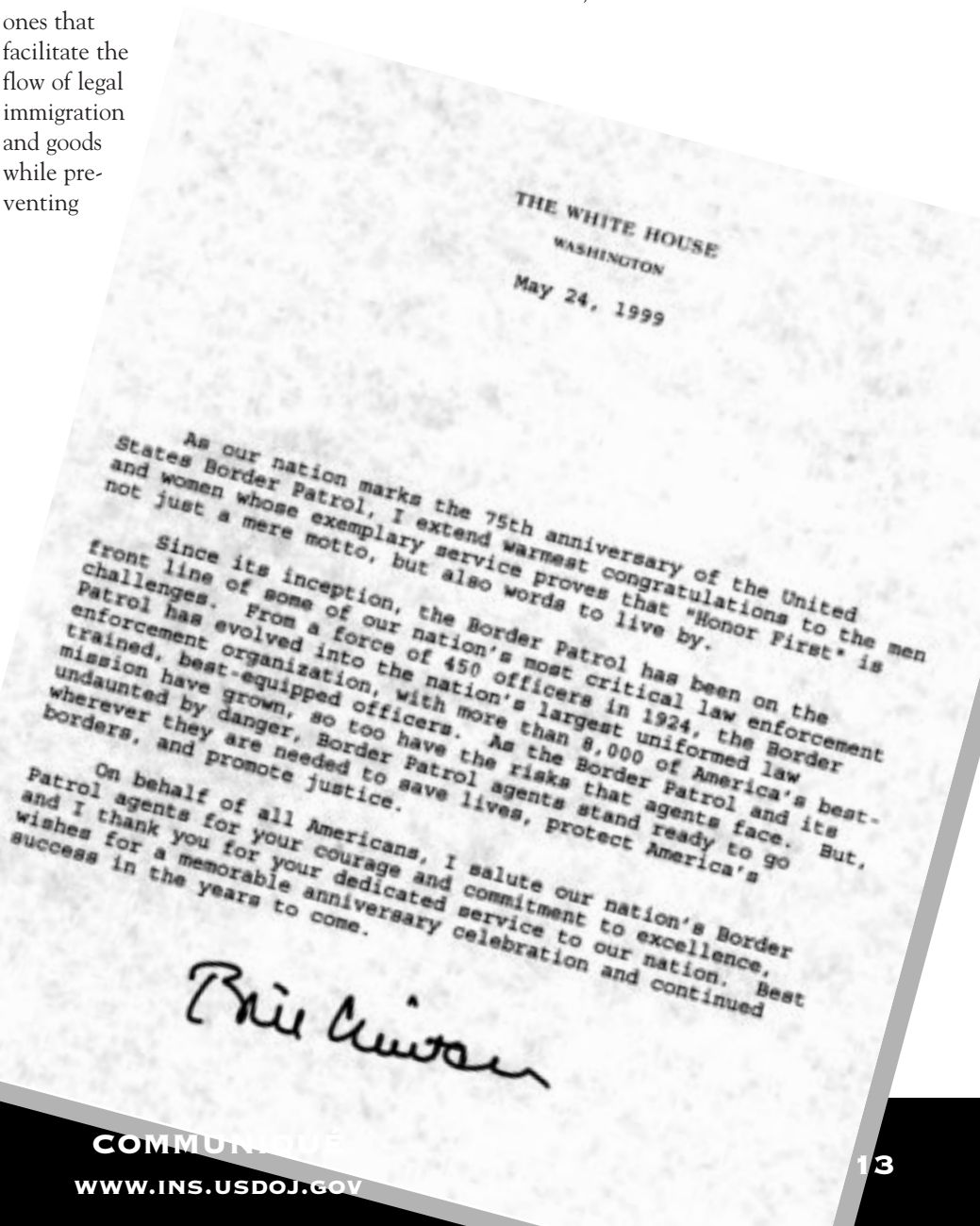
During the first few months of operation, Border Patrol officers were not uniformed and had nothing more than their badges to distinguish them from other citizens. This situation gave smugglers, illegal aliens, and others an excuse for ignoring their commands, thereby endangering the lives of the officers. This was remedied in December 1924 when an official uniform was adopted.

Today, the Border Patrol is the largest uniformed federal law enforcement organization—with more than 8,000 of the best-trained, best-equipped agents anywhere. Working closely with other INS officers, Border Patrol agents help maintain borders that work—ones that facilitate the flow of legal immigration and goods while preventing

the illegal traffic of people and contraband. Operating in 22 states, they patrol the border by foot, vehicle, boat, bicycle, snowmobile, canoe and horseback.



Attorney General Reno and Commissioner Meissner are formally escorted into the celebration. (photo courtesy San Diego, CA, Border Patrol Sector)



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
May 24, 1999

As our nation marks the 75th anniversary of the United States Border Patrol, I extend warmest congratulations to the men and women whose exemplary service proves that "Honor First" is not just a mere motto, but also words to live by.

Since its inception, the Border Patrol has been on the front line of some of our nation's most critical law enforcement challenges. From a force of 450 officers in 1924, the Border Patrol has evolved into the nation's largest uniformed law enforcement organization, with more than 8,000 of America's best-trained, best-equipped officers. As the Border Patrol and its mission have grown, so too have the risks that agents face. But, undaunted by danger, Border Patrol agents stand ready to go wherever they are needed to save lives, protect America's borders, and promote justice.

On behalf of all Americans, I salute our nation's Border Patrol agents for your courage and commitment to excellence, and I thank you for your dedicated service to our nation. Best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration and continued success in the years to come.

Bill Clinton

# COMMUNITY *Outreach*

## **Community Relations Officers' Conference**

**HELD IN WASHINGTON, DC**

INS' national Community Relations Officers' Conference was held in Washington, DC, from May 25-27. Jointly convened by the Office of Policy and Planning (Community and Intergovernmental Programs) and the Office of

Field Operations, the conference brought together regional and district community relations officers, key Headquarters staff, and distinguished external speakers for three days of learning and dialogue.

Executive Associate

Commissioner for Field Operations Michael Pearson opened the proceedings with a keynote address, stressing that the most important contribution of INS' community relations officers will likely be an enhanced understanding of local community concerns as they apply to district/sector operations, as well as their ability to serve as a bridge between the district directors/sector chiefs and community groups.

The conference included presentations by INS managers on current projects, panel discussions with INS and outside speakers, and a training module on conflict analysis. While the expert presentations highlighted INS' strategic priorities and current efforts to improve immigration enforcement

and services, the more free-flowing panel discussions explored especially sensitive issues including profiling and probable cause, employment verification and work-site operations, detention standards and procedures, and the new public charge regulation (see the June 1999 *Communiqué*). Two training modules—on conflict resolution techniques and the standardized reporting of community relations issues and activities—completed the stimulating and highly instructive program.

The conference was positively reviewed by all participants, who were impressed with the broad range of topics and the spirit of dialogue and functional collaboration that characterized the discussions with external stakeholders.

In the words of one community relations officer, "We came out of this conference with a more concrete understanding of our role and responsibilities as a bridge to the wider community. Because of what we've learned here, that bridge is going to get broader and stronger..."



Participants in INS' recent community relations conference in Washington, DC, stand together on the steps of the historic Morrison-Clark Hotel. They included (top row, l. to r.): Justo Garcia, San Antonio District; Christian Rodriguez, New York District; Jennifer Kliska (HQ/Community and Intergovernmental Programs); (second row, l. to r.): John Ramirez, Houston District; Ivette Rodriguez, Florida District; Lisa McClellan, San Diego District; Hiwatha Greene, Detroit District; Maurice Clifford, Headquarters Office of Field Operations; (third row, l. to r.): Kiko Corti, HQ and Intergovernmental Relations Programs; Marijo Grissom, Los Angeles District; Carol Hallstrom, Central Region; Barbara Huie, HQ Community and Intergovernmental Programs; John Shallman, Eastern Region; (fourth row, l. to r.): Janna Evans, Western Region; Rosemarie Fan, San Francisco District; (fifth row): Valentin Obregon, Chicago District. Not pictured: Shyconia Burden, New York District; Bill Castro, Atlanta District; and Pam Young, San Diego Sector.

## **San Diego Sector Hosts Resource Development Program**

The fourth and final event of the San Diego, CA, Sector's Community Resource Development Program took place in mid-April and featured a wide range of guest speakers who promoted the improvement of the Border Patrol's dialogue with the many segments of the local community.

Topics covered by the program's 16 speakers included: Domestic Violence, The Gang Injunction Process, Media Regions, Pending Federal Legislation, Hate Crimes/Watchdog Organizations, Foreign Media Relations, Consular Affairs, Environmental Concerns, U.S.-Latin American Relations, Civil Rights, and Volunteer Organizations.

The session provided the first opportunity for various departments within the sector to attend such discussions. Prior to the implementation of this program, only agents from the stations within the sector attended and participated in these important outreach-development seminars. Through the inclusion of departments including Anti-Smuggling, Asset Forfeiture, Communications, Community Resources, Maintenance, and Procurement, the sector's civilian employees were made an integral part of the community resource development team.

# INS AWARDS *Notes*

## Omaha District Recognized for Improved Public Service

INS' Omaha, NE, District office has been honored with a Public Service Excellence Award for its "Problem Solvers" program that is designed to help improve the district's relationship with its customers.

Presented by the Public Employees Roundtable as part of Public Service Recognition Week 1999, the award specifically cited the district for "offering more convenient office hours and locations for citizenship ceremonies, [taking steps] to ensure that files would not be lost, and [giving] front-line employees more authority to make decisions."

As a result of the effort, which was detailed in a recent issue of *Government Executive* magazine, "the number of people becoming citizens [within the district] increased by 13.6 percent, response time to congressional inquiries improved, and the office's public image improved. Now the Omaha office receives frequent requests to help improve performance at INS offices around the country."

The Public Employees Roundtable is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting civil servants and public service careers. Its Excellence Awards are designed to "recognize innovation and excellence in Federal, state, and local governments."

## Forensic Document Lab Presented with LULAC Award

The Service's Forensic Document Laboratory (FDL) has received the League United Latin American Citizens' (LULAC) 1999 President's Career Enhancement in Law Enforcement Award. Presented at the organization's convention in Corpus Christi, TX, on July 13, the award was given in recognition of "the FDL's dedication and commitment to the ideals of professional law enforcement," according to LULAC President Rick Dovalina.

Given out annually, the President's Awards are designed "to recognize those individuals

and/or teams in law enforcement that have performed [above] and beyond the call of duty, thereby making extraordinary contributions or achievements in the improvement of productivity, efficiency, operational, or program effectiveness; reduced or avoided cost; or creatively solved organizational and mission-related problems through the use of information technology and other resources."

Chief Forensic Document Examiner Gideon Epstein accepted the award on behalf of the Service.

## IN *Memoriam*

### Service Feels Loss of Long-time Employee Mabel Platt

Eighty-six-year-old Mabel Platt, one of the INS' longest-serving employees, passed away in June following a 59-year career with the Service's Chicago District—and 63 years in all with the Department of Justice. Most recently honored by the Commissioner during the district's 100th anniversary celebration in 1997, she will long be remembered for the compassion with which she treated all those requesting information from the Service, and the esteem in which she was held by her peers and supervisors alike. She retired from INS in 1998.

According to Chicago Public Affairs Director Gail Montenegro, "Mabel positively impacted the lives of many immigrants. One of [her] greatest pleasures was attending special naturalization ceremonies and witnessing the faces of so many people from so many different countries come together to realize the dream of becoming American citizens. Her kind and giving nature will be embedded in the memories of many for years to come."



Mabel Platt stands with Marcus Neely, director of the Service's Chicago, IL, district in a 1952 photo.

"During her exemplary career with our Chicago District office," the Commissioner wrote recently in a condolence letter to Mabel's cousin Goldie Dellsy, "she seemed intent on single-handedly making INS a world-class service organization. She helped thousands of people to resolve immigration-related prob-

lems, responding to each request for assistance with the same potent blend of competence, courtesy, and compassion."

Just below her signature, she added a hand-written note—"I feel privileged to have known and worked with Mabel."



# PEOPLE ON *the Move*

## At Headquarters:

INS' Executive Associate Commissioner for Management George H. Bohlinger III has named **D. Diane Weaver** as the Service's



D. Diane Weaver  
(photo by Anne Gyemant)

new director of the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO). Weaver, who has served as the acting EEO director for the past 18 months, recently completed the U.S. Office of

Personnel Management's "Leadership for a Democratic Society" program, and has also graduated from programs including the EEO Officer's Course, Personnel Management for Executives, and Civilian Personnel Administration Program for Managers. Prior to joining INS, she served as director of the U.S. Army's Equal Employment Opportunity Directorate, chief of the Office of Equal Opportunity within the Army's Tank Automotive Unit, and with the Civilian Appellate Review Agency (now the Department of Defense's Office of Complaints Division) in St. Louis, MO.

## In the Field:

**William G. Harrington** has been selected as the new director of the Dallas, TX, District office. A 33-year INS veteran, Harrington has served as the acting district director in Dallas since July of 1998, when Arthur Strapp returned to oversee the INS office in Las Vegas, NV.

Prior to that, he was the deputy district director in Dallas, a position he held since August of 1997.

Before moving to Dallas, Harrington was an assistant chief patrol agent with the Service's El Paso, TX, Sector. He has also held a wide range of positions with sectors in California, Arizona, and New Mexico, and previously spent two years as a criminal investigator in the Phoenix, AZ, District office.

Commissioner Meissner has also announced the selection of **Hipolito Acosta** as the Service's new district director in Mexico City. A 24-year INS veteran originally from Presidio,

Acosta was also the co-coordinator of the highly successful Service operation "Seek and Keep," the largest anti-smuggling case ever broken by INS, and has been involved in working to naturalize Filipino veterans of World War II.

The Headquarters Office of Files and Forms Management (HQFFM) has announced the selection of **Bob Barnard** as deputy director of the new INS National Records Center in Missouri. A native of Oxnard, CA, Barnard began his government career in 1966 by enlisting in the U.S. Army. He spent 10 years on active duty, leaving the Army in

1975 to become a management analyst for the Panama Canal Company. In 1983, Barnard returned to the Army for another 10 years of active duty, including postings as a battalion executive officer and supply operations officer. He was



Newly appointed Mexico City District Director Hipolito Acosta stands with Deputy Commissioner Wyrsh and Acting Director of the Office of International Affairs Jeff Weiss during a recent visit to INS Headquarters. (photo by Anne Gyemant)

TX, Acosta entered on duty as a Border Patrol agent in the Marfa, TX, Sector. Over the course of his career, he has held a variety of positions, including criminal investigator in both Chicago, IL, and El Paso, TX; Border Patrol anti-smuggling special agent in El Paso; supervisory special agent in Brownsville, TX; assistant officer-in-charge in Manila, Philippines; officer-in-charge in Manila and Monterrey, Mexico; and most recently, officer-in-charge in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, a position he has held since June 1996.

later transferred to Korea, where he was a plans officer and deputy chief of staff for security. While in Korea, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Army.

Barnard retired from the Army in 1994, worked for both the departments of the Army and Navy, and was most recently a transportation manager at the Naval Air Weapons Station in China Lake, CA.